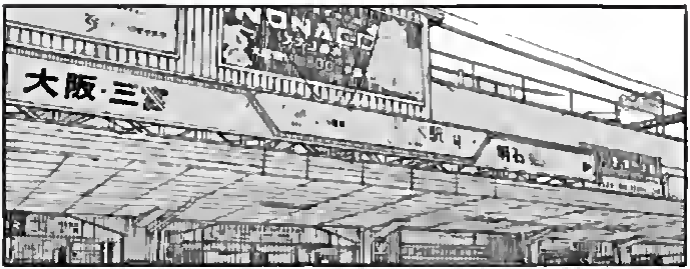
がんばれメガネ

Try your best
Four-eyes

第4話

TRANSLATOR: NINJIN NINGEN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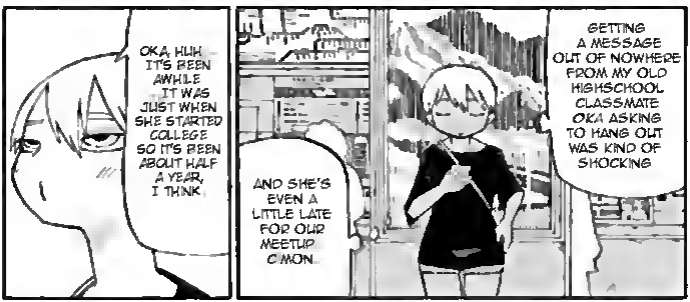
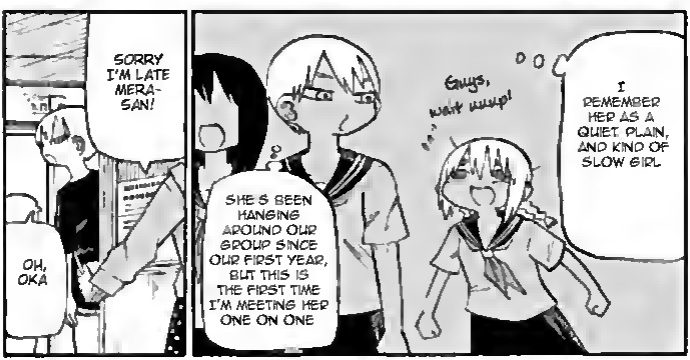
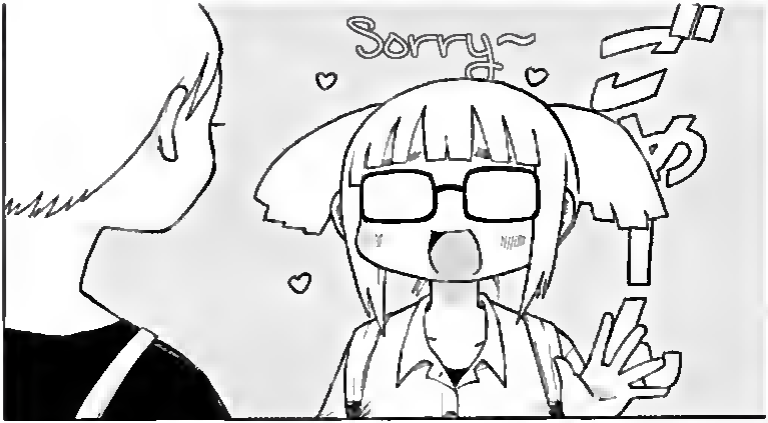
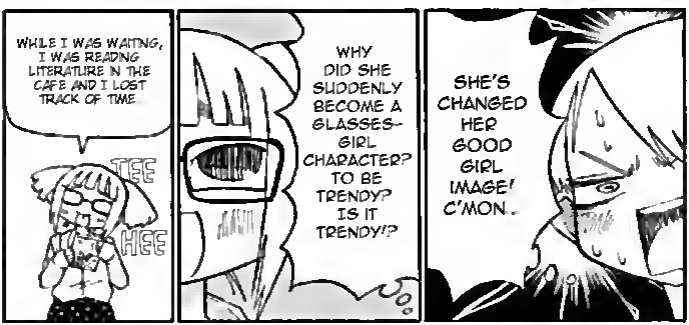
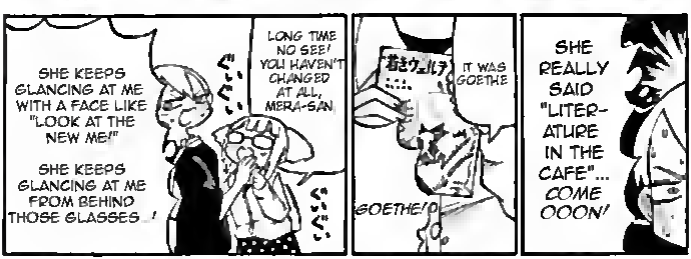

OKA, HUH... IT'S BEEN AWHILE... IT WAS JUST WHEN SHE STARTED COLLEGE SO IT'S BEEN ABOUT HALF A YEAR, I THINK.
AND SHE'S EVEN A LITTLE LATE FOR OUR MEETUP. C'MON...
GETTING A MESSAGE OUT OF NOWHERE FROM MY OLD HIGHSCHOOL CLASSMATE OKA ASKING TO HANG OUT WAS KIND OF SHOCKING


SORRY I'M LATE MERA-SAN!
OH, OKA
SHE'S BEEN HANGING AROUND OUR GROUP SINCE OUR FIRST YEAR, BUT THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'M MEETING HER ONE ON ONE
Gwys, wait wup!
I REMEMBER HER AS A QUIET, PLAIN, AND KIND OF SLOW GIRL

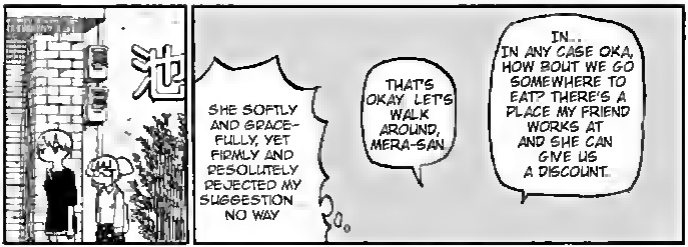


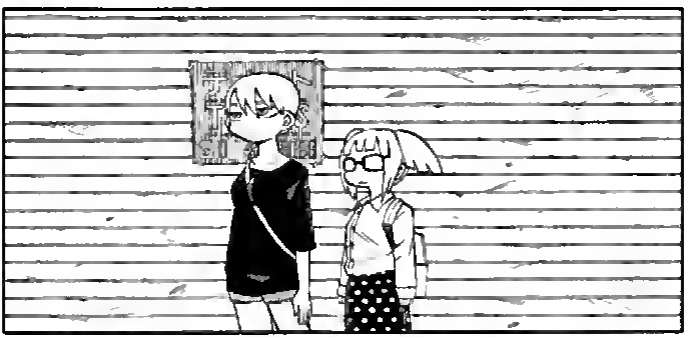

WHILE I WAS WAITING, I WAS READING LITERATURE IN THE CAFE AND I LOST TRACK OF TIME
TEE HEE
WHY DID SHE SUDDENLY BECOME A GLASSES-GIRL CHARACTER? TO BE TRENDY? IS IT TRENDY!?
SHE'S CHANGED HER GOOD GIRL IMAGE! C'MON..

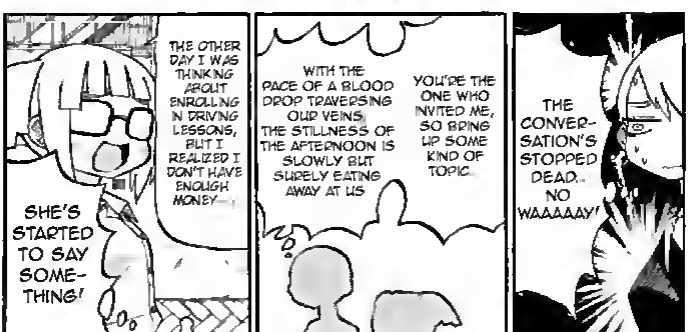

SHE KEEPS GLANCING AT ME WITH A FACE LIKE "LOOK AT THE NEW ME!"
SHE KEEPS GLANCING AT ME FROM BEHIND THOSE GLASSES..!
LONG TIME NO SEE! YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED AT ALL, MERA-SAN
IT WAS GOETHE
GOETHE!?
SHE REALLY SAID "LITERATURE IN THE CAFE"... COME OOON!

SFX AGGRESSIVE APPROACH

TITLE YOUNG WERTHER


SHE SOFTLY AND GRACEFULLY, YET FIRMLY AND RESOLUTELY REJECTED MY SUGGESTION
NO WAY
THAT'S OKAY LET'S WALK AROUND, MERA-SAN
IN... IN ANY CASE OKA, HOW BOUT WE GO SOMEWHERE TO EAT? THERE'S A PLACE MY FRIEND WORKS AT AND SHE CAN GIVE US A DISCOUNT.

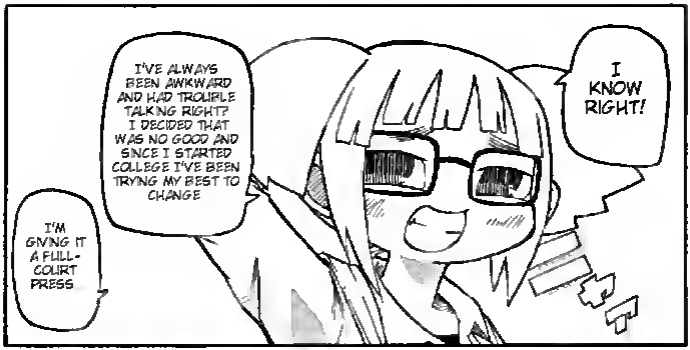



SHE'S STARTED TO SAY SOMETHING!
THE OTHER DAY I WAS THINKING ABOUT ENROLLING IN DRIVING LESSONS, BUT I REALIZED I DON'T HAVE ENOUGH MONEY...
WITH THE PACE OF A BLOOD DROP TRAVERSING OUR VEINS, THE STILLNESS OF THE AFTERNOON IS SLOWLY BUT SURELY EATING AWAY AT US
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO INVITED ME, SO BRING UP SOME KIND OF TOPIC...
THE CONVERSATION'S STOPPED DEAD... NO WAAAAAY!

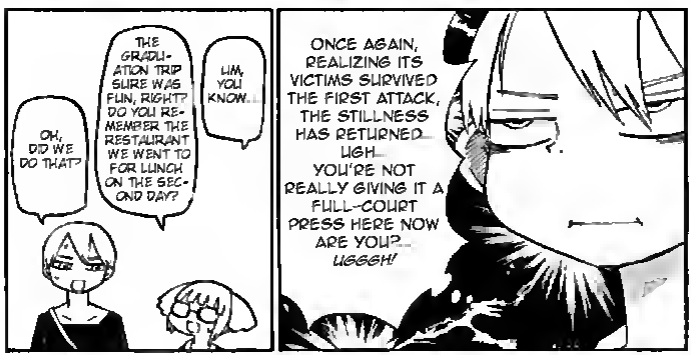
You've done it now!*
Whaa aaaa aat?!
SHE'S USING EXPRESSIONS A MANAGER MIGHT SAY LIKE "FULL-COURT PRESS" WHOAH.
HEHE IT WAS FUNNY WHEN I WENT ALL OUT JUST NOW, WASN'T IT? I REALLY DID A FULL-COURT PRESS.
THE BALLISTIC ATTACK LOBBED AN UNABASHED TRAGEDY
AT AN ANGLE TO GOUGE OUT YOUR HEART USING THE OPTIMAL STRATEGY
UM, OKA, YOU'VE KINDA CHANGED, HAVEN'T YOU?
SHE SLOWLY,* SUDDENLY, CALMLY, PASSION-ATELY DEFINED THE PHRASE—
AH, A FULL-COURT PRESS MEANS TO GIVE IT 110 PERCENT.
SHE'S USING EXPRESSIONS A MANAGER MIGHT SAY LIKE "FULL-COURT PRESS"— WHOOOOAH—

*SHE'S DOING A CATCH PHRASE BY THE COMEDIANS COOL POKO NAA-NI-? YACHIMATTA NA! IT INVOLVES EXTREMELY OVER-THE-TOP YELLING AND WOULD BE HORRIFIC TO HEAR IN REAL LIFE

*THIS WORD, OMOMURONI, IS COMMONLY MISUSED TO BE A SYNONYM OF SUDDENLY


I'M GIVING IT A FULL-COURT PRESS...
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN AWKWARD AND HAD TROUBLE TALKING RIGHT? I DECIDED THAT WAS NO GOOD AND SINCE I STARTED COLLEGE I'VE BEEN TRYING MY BEST TO CHANGE
I KNOW RIGHT!

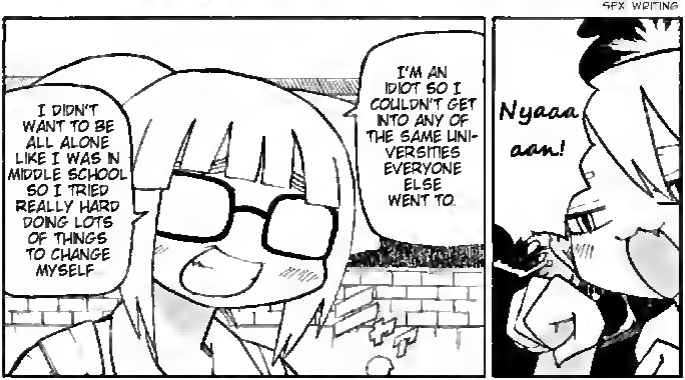
...
SHE SAID FULL-COURT PRESS TWICE!
SHE SAID FULL-COURT PRESS TWICE!


OH, DID WE DO THAT?
THE GRADUATION TRIP SURE WAS FUN, RIGHT? DO YOU REMEMBER THE RESTAURANT WE WENT TO FOR LUNCH ON THE SECOND DAY?
UM, YOU KNOW...
ONCE AGAIN, REALIZING ITS VICTIMS SURVIVED THE FIRST ATTACK, THE STILLNESS HAS RETURNED... UGH... YOU'RE NOT REALLY GIVING IT A FULL-COURT PRESS HERE NOW ARE YOU?... UGGGH!

JUST WHEN I START THINKING SOME KIND OF CONVERSATION WOULD BE A RAY OF LIGHT RESCUING ME FROM THIS DARK WORLD OPPRESSED BY SILENCE, SHE REALLY STARTS TALKING ABOUT MONEY?... WOW
CAN I GET IT BACK SOMETIME LIKE TODAY?
BACK THEN WE WERE SPLITTING THE BILL AND EACH PERSON PAID 1500 YEN BUT I GAVE YOU 2000 YEN AND I DIDN'T GET BACK 500 IN CHANGE
SHE MADE A MEMO SHE ACTUALLY RECORDED IT WITH PEN AND PAPER SO THAT THIS SEPIA-TINGED MEMORY WOULD NEVER FADE AWAY WOW, WOW, WOW!
AT THE PARTY AFTER THE GRADUATION CEREMONY I DIDN'T GET YOU TO RETURN THE FEE FOR A DRINK
OH FOR REAL? I DON'T REALLY REMEMBER MY BAD
OH YEAH, AND ALSO...
AN EMOTION WHICH IS SO UNCONTROLLABLE THAT THE MUSCLES DOTTED THROUGHOUT YOUR FACE MOVE IN UNISON LIKE THE NORTH KOREAN MASS GAMES HAS SUCH A THING EVER BEEN EXPRESSED IN WORDS? ALAS, ALAS, ALAS!
HER FACE IS CONTORTED IN AN AMAZINGLY UNPLEASANT EXPRESSION... ALAS
OKAY..
SORRY BOUT THIS, BUT THIS MONTH I'M KINDA IN A BAD SPOT AND I DON'T HAVE ANY SPARE CASH

RIGHT AFTER TALKING ABOUT MONEY SHE STARTS TALKING LIKE THIS SHE DOES NOTHING BUT PUZZLE ME... NYAN
BUT IT WAS FUN, WASN'T IT? I'D ONLY HAD SLEEP-OVERS WITH FRIENDS WHEN I WAS A LITTLE KID SO THAT WAS A FIRST TIME FOR ME
ALAS!
HOW TO EXPRESS AN EMOTION THAT MAKES THE MUSCLES DOTTED IN YOUR FACE PERFORM THE MASS GAMES?

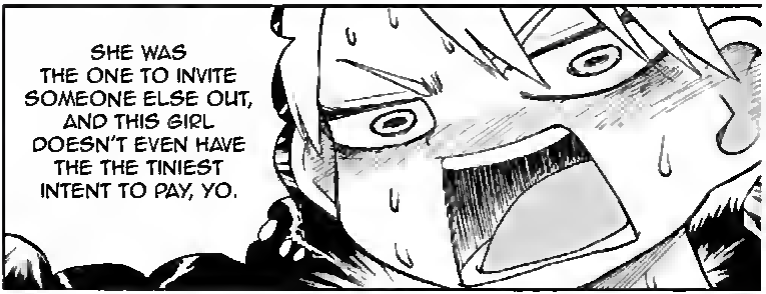
SFX WRITING

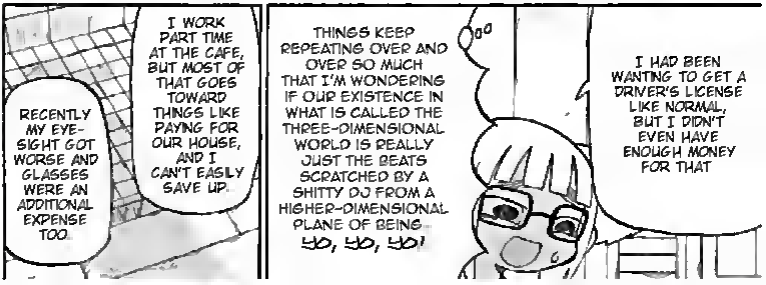

I DIDN'T WANT TO BE ALL ALONE LIKE I WAS IN MIDDLE SCHOOL SO I TRIED REALLY HARD DOING LOTS OF THINGS TO CHANGE MYSELF
I'M AN IDIOT SO I COULDN'T GET INTO ANY OF THE SAME UNI-VERSITIES EVERYONE ELSE WENT TO.
Nyaaa aan!

SFX GRINNING

OH? BUT MERA-SAN, YOU JUST SAID YOU DIDN'T HAVE ANY MONEY, DIDN'T YOU?
AH, YOU KNOW, I'M PRETTY HUNGRY AFTER ALL. LET'S STOP IN SOME-WHERE
HISTORY IS BEING REPEATED OVER AND OVER JUST LIKE THE JAZZ PLAYED BY A BRAVE LITTLE VINYL RECORD THAT DOESN'T KNOW IT'S BROKEN...
SHE WAS JUST TALKING ABOUT THAT...

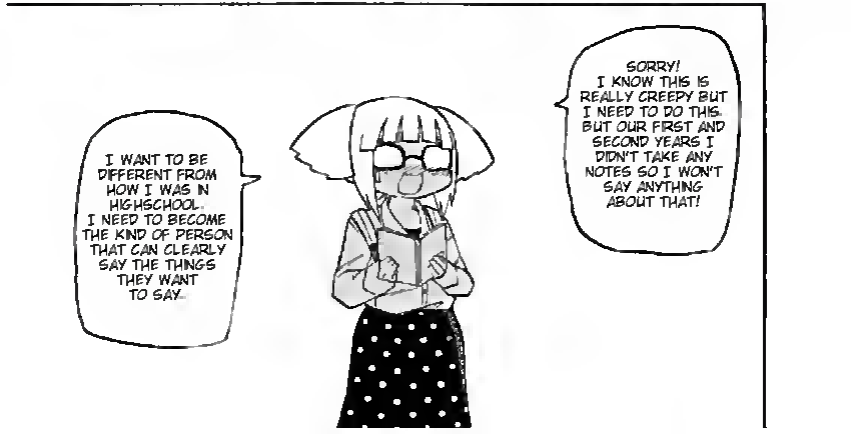
AM I
PAYING AGAIN?

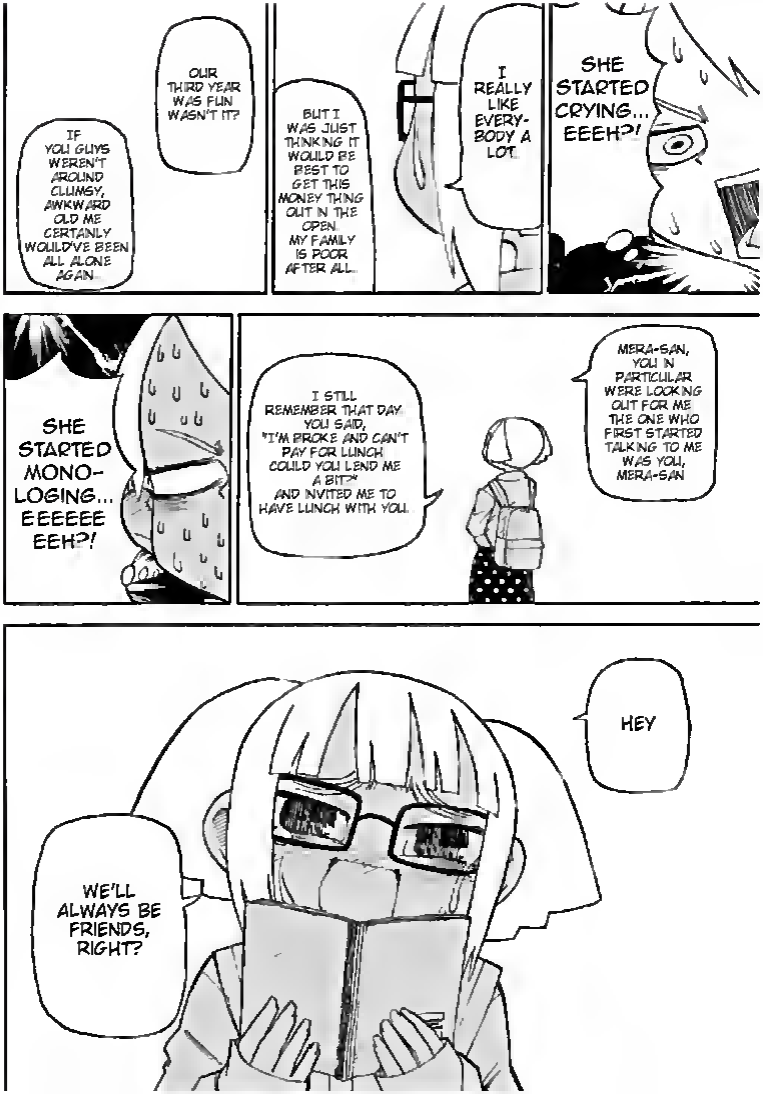

SHE WAS THE ONE TO INVITE SOMEONE ELSE OUT, AND THIS GIRL DOESN'T EVEN HAVE THE THE TINIEST INTENT TO PAY, YO.


I WORK PART TIME AT THE CAFE, BUT MOST OF THAT GOES TOWARD THINGS LIKE PAYING FOR OUR HOUSE, AND I CAN'T EASILY SAVE UP.
RECENTLY MY EYE-SIGHT GOT WORSE AND GLASSES WERE AN ADDITIONAL EXPENSE TOO.
THINGS KEEP REPEATING OVER AND OVER SO MUCH THAT I'M WONDERING IF OUR EXISTENCE IN WHAT IS CALLED THE THREE-DIMENSIONAL WORLD IS REALLY JUST THE BEATS SCRATCHED BY A SHITTY DJ FROM A HIGHER-DIMENSIONAL PLANE OF BEING.
YO, YO, YO!
I HAD BEEN WANTING TO GET A DRIVER'S LICENSE LIKE NORMAL, BUT I DIDN'T EVEN HAVE ENOUGH MONEY FOR THAT

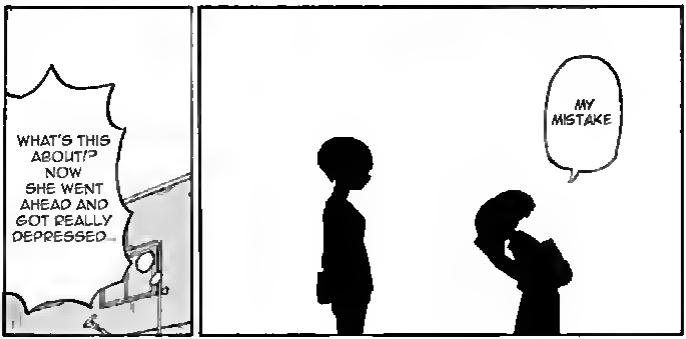
IT WOULD BE REALLY NICE IF YOU WOULD RETURN ALL TWENTY VOLUMES OF THE SHOUJO MANGA I LENT YOU IN HIGH SCHOOL... A MOVIE ADAPTATION HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED SO I THINK THEY MIGHT SELL FOR A LOT.
OH THAT'S RIGHT.
I USED TO LIKE MANGA BUT I STAY AWAY FROM THE ONES WITH LOTS OF VOLUMES
BOOKS ARE NICE AREN'T THEY? THEY'RE CHEAP AND YOU CAN ENJOY THEM FOR A LONG TIME
THE REPLY CAME BACK AND SAYS, "MUSCLES ARE FIBERS AND AREN'T DOTTED AND THEY ALSO DON'T HOLD MASS GAMES."
AND ALSO I LENT YOU PERSONALLY A NET TOTAL OF 7000 YEN...
...AND DURING OUR LUNCH BREAK I WOULD GO TO BUY EVERYONE'S MEAL. TEN SERVINGS IN ALL. AND I STILL HAVEN'T BEEN PAID BACK THAT LARGE SUM OF MONEY...
THE SUMMER AFTER OUR 3RD YEAR I PAID OFF YOUR KARAOKE DEBT...
IT'S JUST LIKE WHEN AFTER A CLASSIC SCI-FI NOVEL IS SWIMMING IN A DIGITAL CLOCK THAT INDICATES NOON BELLS WHICH ARE TURNED INTO A MOE ANIME CHARACTER, A DEPARTMENT STORE EMPLOYEE WHO HATES KANSAI DIALECT CHARACTERS NAMED MATSUDA-SAN'S O-TOU-SAN'S SHICHI-GO-SAN TOCHIGISAN ONE" APPEARS...
HER SECRET WEAPON. THE MEMO, HAS MADE ANOTHER APPEARANCE.

*O-TOU-SAN = FATHER SHICHI-GO-SAN = A JAPANESE FESTIVAL TOCHIGISAN = MADE IN TOCHIGI PREFECTURE


I WANT TO BE DIFFERENT FROM HOW I WAS IN HIGHSCHOOL. I NEED TO BECOME THE KIND OF PERSON THAT CAN CLEARLY SAY THE THINGS THEY WANT TO SAY...
SORRY! I KNOW THIS IS REALLY CREEPY BUT I NEED TO DO THIS. BUT OUR FIRST AND SECOND YEARS I DIDN'T TAKE ANY NOTES SO I WON'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT THAT!


IF YOU GUYS WEREN'T AROUND CLUMSY, AWKWARD OLD ME CERTAINLY WOULD'VE BEEN ALL ALONE AGAIN
OUR THIRD YEAR WAS FUN WASN'T IT?
BUT I WAS JUST THINKING IT WOULD BE BEST TO GET THIS MONEY THING OUT IN THE OPEN. MY FAMILY IS POOR AFTER ALL.
I REALLY LIKE EVERY-BODY A LOT.
SHE STARTED CRYING... EEEH?!
SHE STARTED MONO-LOGING... EEEEEE EEH?!
I STILL REMEMBER THAT DAY. YOU SAID, "I'M BROKE AND CAN'T PAY FOR LUNCH. COULD YOU LEND ME A BIT?" AND INVITED ME TO HAVE LUNCH WITH YOU.
MERA-SAN, YOU IN PARTICULAR WERE LOOKING OUT FOR ME. THE ONE WHO FIRST STARTED TALKING TO ME WAS YOU, MERA-SAN
HEY
WE'LL ALWAYS BE FRIENDS, RIGHT?

SHE THINKS WE'RE FRIENDS... EEEEEEEE EEEEEEEE EEEEH?!


WHAT'S THIS ABOUT!? NOW SHE WENT AHEAD AND GOT REALLY DEPRESSED...
MY MISTAKE